



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:
AFR

MAY 31 2002

Honorable Gary Locke
Governor of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Locke:

In early December you designated a lead individual from the state of Washington to work with us in developing implementation strategies and mechanisms for a new federal cost share program to assist in the construction of fish screens and fishways created by Public Law 106-502. I am pleased to report that we have made substantial progress. Project application and review processes are in place and applications for cost share funding are now being accepted. By the end of June we will select the first group of projects for funding under the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act Program. We expect to select a second group of projects during late fall.

The purpose of this letter is to request state assistance in defining what qualifies as a "local government" under PL 106-502. The law specifies involvement of local governments in project applications. The Service has interpreted this to mean that counties, municipal governments, and various local service districts may act as applicant or co-applicant with other parties for fish screen and passage projects under this program. We also interpret federally recognized Indian Tribes as government entities with jurisdiction over defined areas within their designated lands and regard them as eligible applicants. We recognize that a number of entities have been created within each state to plan or implement various aspects of species and habitat restoration. Therefore, it is important for the Service to solicit your guidance in identifying those additional entities which we should regard as "local governments" according to Washington statute, rule, or common practice. As this guidance may affect our determinations of project eligibility your input by June 25, 2002, would be much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to note that this successful start to an effective new partnership would not have been possible without the efforts of Greg Hueckel and others at the Department of Fish and Wildlife in committing their time, energy, and creativity to this effort. Please pass my sincere thank you on to them.

Please direct any questions regarding this request to Dan Diggs, Assistant Regional Director for Fishery Resources, at (503) 872-2763.

Sincerely,

Anne Baugley
Regional Director